UNDP

UNITED NATIONS
DEVELOPMENT
PROGRAMME

Distributed on request
DP/PROJECTS/7536

ENGLISH

APPROVAL OF UNDP ASSISTANCE TO A PROJECT OF
THE MEMBER STATES OF THE CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY

IPF:(1987-91) $49 700 000
(RLA/87/037)-Exploration for Geothermal Resources in the Eastern Caribbean

Date of approval by the AC:[1/]	21 December 1989
Expected duration:	Fourteen months
Proposed executing agency:	United Nations
Government implementing agency:	Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Secretariat
Proposed UNDP contribution:	$565 000
Total UNDP budget:	$565 000

Project background

With few exceptions, the majority of the countries of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) are heavily dependent on oil imports for their electricity power requirements. Following the oil price shocks of 1973-1974 and again in 1979-1980, which caused severe dislocations in the economies of these countries, CARICOM governments adopted a Regional Energy Action Plan (REAP) with the objective of establishing the basis for development of the region's energy sources in a rational manner. Since these countries are for the most part small islands, their limited surface areas and other characteristics virtually preclude hydrological systems suitable for large or medium-scale hydro-power plants. A few islands do generate hydroelectric power on a small scale to supplement their existing diesel generation capacity, but the hydropower potential by itself is unlikely to satisfy growing electricity demands. Given the volcanic formation of the islands, the REAP has accorded top priority to investigation of the geothermal energy potential of the region.

Geothermal exploration work already carried out in some Caribbean countries have been analysed favourably; and the results clearly support the undertaking of further detailed study of the resources and the viability of geothermal energy development as a predictable and stable substitute for diesel-based electrical power.

Description of project

The project is designed to enable the Caribbean countries to make a thorough assessment of the options for geothermal energy development. A detailed techno-economic pre-feasibility study will be carried out to determine the existence of high enthalphy geothermal resources suitable for commercial generation of electricity in Montserrat, Nevis,

[1/] This Fact Sheet reflects the status of the project/revision at the time it was approved by the Action Committee; modifications to the project/revision may have occurred subsequently.

/...

St. Christopher and St. Vincent. The technical and economic viability of connecting neighbouring Caribbean countries by submarine cable power transmission will also be determined. In addition, by the end of the project, a nucleus of regional professionals trained in geothermal exploration techniques will have been created.

Inputs

UNDP will provide a subcontract for a team comprising a geothermal specialist, a geologist, geochemist, hydrogeologist, power engineer, and economist; periodic tripartite review meetings with the full participation of representatives of the countries, the Executing Agency, and UNDP; and miscellaneous costs.

Financial data

	$
Personnel	10 000
Subcontract	550 000
Miscellaneous	5 000
Total	565 000

- - - - -